



# Richmond upon Thames Compact Statement

Our vision is for a strong and sustainable partnership between the voluntary and statutory sector; which recognises and values the unique contribution of the voluntary sector to the well-being of the local community. Our aim is for there to be a vibrant and independent voluntary sector that is able to meet the needs of its communities and gives a strong voice to service users, potential users and carers which is fully understood by all stakeholders.

## Partners:



## Foreword

We are privileged to live in a borough that has a thriving voluntary sector and many dedicated residents making a big contribution to Richmond becoming an even better place to live, work and study. A flourishing voluntary sector brings many benefits to our local community, such as enabling and improving local services, giving a voice to local people and creating a borough that is accessible and can be enjoyed by all.

The Council values the work of the sector and is committed to engaging with and supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to face the challenges and opportunities that arise and build resilience to serve the local community.

This Compact provides a framework to work together so we can focus on creating relationships that will strengthen the services and opportunities that the sector provides. We all need to think about ways to refresh and renew how we work together, to create an even better borough for all our residents. This Compact is a stepping stone on that journey.

**Cllr Michael Wilson, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

On behalf of the local voluntary and community sector in Richmond upon Thames, RCVS is delighted to endorse and support the refreshed Richmond upon Thames Compact. We have a long and proud history of voluntary action here in Richmond upon Thames with a significant number and range of local organisations carrying out incredible work and services for local people. A range of partners have worked hard on the Compact refresh to ensure that the already positive relations between cross-sector partners are further strengthened and developed. We will however continue to work hard to support each other so that we are able to respond to all challenges that arise. We need to ensure that the principle and goals as set out in our Compact become part and parcel of the way we do things in Richmond upon Thames, strengthening the links between the voluntary sector and a wide range of partners to bring about real, positive change.

**Kathryn Williamson, Interim Director, Richmond Council for Voluntary Service**

# Richmond upon Thames Compact Principles

These are the values and behaviours which underpin and direct our work.

1. We will promote an open and honest relationship between the voluntary and statutory sector, recognising both the common and respective challenges they face.
2. The independent nature of the voluntary sector is fully recognised.
3. The valuable contribution that the voluntary sector makes to the economic, environmental and social development of the local area is recognised.
4. Full account of the Compact commitments will be considered when commissioning and procuring services from the voluntary sector.
5. All stakeholders operate within set legal parameters which are acknowledged by each other.
6. The involvement of all stakeholders ensures that new policies and services can contribute as much as possible to meeting the needs of the community.
7. Services can best be provided by a variety of voluntary and socially enterprising, public and private initiatives which build on respective strengths and complement each other.
8. Decisions are better when they are made with the active participation of all partners.

# Richmond upon Thames Compact Outcomes

These are the results we expect to achieve through working better together.

1. A strong, diverse, sustainable and independent voluntary and community sector
2. Active partnership working and collaboration producing synergies in how we work together
3. Effective services which value diversity and equality, and promote a healthy marketplace
4. Effective and transparent services are developed through taking into account a wide range of views and experiences, including those of service users, potential users and their carers
5. Responsive and high-quality services are enabled through appropriate and proportionate commissioning practice
6. Value for money for residents
7. Change is managed well.

# Richmond upon Thames Compact Partners

We encourage a wide range of partners to become signatories to the Richmond upon Thames Compact. A list of our partner signatories can be found on the Council's website.

## Richmond upon Thames Compact Toolkit

The Richmond upon Thames Compact Toolkit has been drawn up for both voluntary and statutory sector partners and describes in more detail those indicators by which we can measure our partnership working.

## Richmond upon Thames Compact Implementation

There are a range of mechanisms for the implementation of the Compact. The aims are to raise awareness of the Compact, create an accountability framework for organisations that sign up to its principles and outcomes and capture the learning where the Compact has worked well and issues have been resolved.

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